

Victoria Street Newz December 2011

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RESOLUTION,
Statement of Intent and
Action for Decoloniz-
ing Victoria; Memoran-
dum of solidarity and support
with Indigenous peoples of this
land and all Indigenous peoples
in what is commonly known as
British Columbia and Canada.

WHEREAS, that as a signal to
the "Occupy Together"
movement and Indigenous
peoples here who have felt
excluded by the colonialist
language of occupation used to
name this movement, we meet
under the name: The Peoples'
Assembly of Victoria.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge
that we are on Lekwungen land,

territory that is shared in ways
with WSANEC and other
Indigenous communities but has
never been ceded and is illegally
occupied by British Columbia
and Canada.

WHEREAS, we acknowledge
that despite great colonial
pressures Lekwungen,
WSANEC and other Indigenous
communities from the area
remain sovereign nations and we
will endeavor to build open and
supportive communication with
members of these communities.

WHEREAS, we recognize that
much of the wealth and its
distribution being protested in
the Occupy-Together Movement
is derived from the past and

continued theft of Indigenous
peoples' land and resources and
an unsustainable exploitation of
the Earth.

We, The Peoples' Assembly of
Victoria do hereby declare it:

RESOLVED, that we will take
greater responsibility to learn
the histories of Vancouver
Island and surrounding area,
including colonial legal history
and the Douglas Treaties.

RESOLVED, that we will be
open to cultivating political and
social relationships with
Indigenous peoples that will
effect meaningful change to
address historical and
contemporary injustices.

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About Street Newz

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Founded in 2004,
Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including personal stories, interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

We are devoted to a triple bottom line philosophy - concerned about our environmental and social, as well as financial, well-being.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the *Victoria Street Newz* team, by pondering the root causes of poverty, and by working for peaceful, non-violent change.

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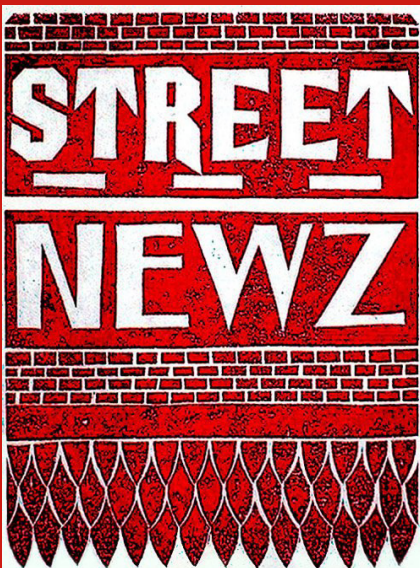


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News of Ashlie Gough's death, November 5th at the Occupy Vancouver People's Assembly, brought with it sympathy, but

also condemnation for the camp, its supporters, and the revolution overall.

Sadly, those who still trust the corporate news media will not have heard the many good news stories emerging from the camps - the community building, the solidarity, the reaffirmation of optimism and hope for a survivable future.

For example, in an article titled "Occupy Turns Sinister" published online in *The Daily Beast* (the online home of Newsweek Magazine), K.J. Kaila reports "Vancouver has long had one of the most serious heroin addiction problems of any North American city." Indeed. Unfortunately, Kaila's insight ends there. Like so many others whose housed and comfortable lives are protected from the many challenges the low, no-income, and homeless communities continually face, Kaila chose to blame the homeless for their own plight and denounce the movement as "an unsanitary eyesore, strewn with garbage, drug paraphernalia, and rats looking for leftovers" rather than realizing the larger context.

On the streets there's a rumour that Ashlie was a victim of bad heroin. True or not, her

just another rant

janinebandcroft.blogspot.com

death raises more questions than merely offering the simple solution that the protestors have made their point, the city should just shut the whole thing down, and we'll all just get on with our lives.

I don't have enough space in this newspaper to begin to deconstruct the naïve, erroneous, uninformed simplicity of that sentiment, but I would like to pose some unasked questions.

Why has opium production in Afghanistan increased "from a modest 185 tons at the start of American intervention in 2001" to "8,200 tons [providing] a remarkable 53 percent of the country's GDP and 93 percent of global heroin supply"?

How much of that opium is remade into heroin? In which countries, in which laboratories, does that metamorphosis occur? Why is it called "heroin (heroin)"? How much of the drug is shipped into Vancouver's harbour? Where does it go from there? Who is complicit in ensuring this global drug trade continues? Who benefits from it?

Who brought the heroin into Vancouver's camp? Why do people take such drugs? Are they attempting to numb their pain, or are they attempting to enhance their experience? What is it about our society that encourages so many to seek such an experience?

Ashlie's family wants us to know that she was transient, but she wasn't an addict². Her tragic death invites us to wonder how many people die from overdoses every day, unseen and unreported, and to ask - where are the homeless and/or addicted expected to go

after the camps are shut down? Back to the dark alleys, out of sight and out of mind?

Yes, Vancouver has a safe injection site, the only one in North America, and it's saving lives. Yes, there are compassionate and caring individuals within the revolutionary camps doing their best to survive and protect. But overall, where are the health authorities, the service agencies, the city officials who ostensibly care about harm reduction? Have they truly embraced the revolution, understanding the need for systemic change if we are to continue as a species on this planet, or do they depend too much on a broken system for their own immediate fiscal sustainability?

RIP Ashlie Gough
August 29, 1988
- November 5, 2011.

¹ *War on Drugs on Steroids: How Wall St., Banks, Mercenaries and Prisons Cash In* - www.pacificfreepress.com/news/1/9187-war-on-drugs-on-steroids-how-wall-st-banks-mercenaries-and-prisons-cash-in.html

² *Ashlie Gough death a 'tragedy' says family, but don't blame Occupy Vancouver* - www.vancouverobserver.com/contributors/david-p-ball

Janine founded the Victoria Street Newz in 2004 with a plan to take over the world ... or at least to sustain her own simple lifestyle with right livelihood. She's indescribably thankful to all the peaceful revolutionaries, past and present, risking their lives so that future generations of all earth's bounteous lifeforms can enjoy the right to life, liberty, and security of being.



Support for Human BEINGS

I am most grateful for the People's Assembly and that they are allowed to BE in Centennial Square. Cutting the electricity seems very mean spirited. How do you put up Christmas lights without power? The latest is to cut the water off....and then put in a skating rink. Without water I ask?

Contrary to what I read about the need to articulate NOW, I believe that as human BEINGS we can take time out from the rush to be DOING something immediately. The DOING often proves to be wrong. We find out, after the fact, that some level of government has rushed something through before election day. We/they KNOW that there is a better way.

In solidarity around the world the answers and the action will come. Out of the dark comes the light. We are certainly experiencing the dark. With this movement I see the light returning with the peaceful action that is taking place word wide. It is the opposite to the lucrative business of war.

I think the skating rink is a great idea but not at the expense of those truly in need. Those that can afford skates and the entrance fee will enjoy and hopefully the campers will enjoy the scene? Some might be afraid to be near the camp. More important is the fear anyone might be the next in need of a place to camp.

A few people (off site) have said they wished it had all started with the warmer weather. Would we not all rather be in a position to choose if and or when and where to camp? We see so many in Victoria and around the world thrown into this awful plight through the greed of consumerism, wars and climate change.

Postscript: As of today, Nov. 6, an eviction notice was delivered from city hall. Where will they go from here? Back to the streets I guess?

Joanna Wilkinson, Victoria

Why Support the Camps?

An enduring camp does a number of important things simultaneously. It is part of a visible international movement that keeps up a certain amount of momentum because it is so wide-spread and so visible. People can see and hear and feel each other doing something. When the camps are gone and the discussion on capitalist depredations returns to the classrooms and the radical groupuscules and the Internet, there will be much less possibility that such discussion will actually begin to change anything.

With its rotation of discussions and speakers, the camp itself is a classroom for varying numbers of people (probably partly depending on the rain and the temperature, but other things as well) who don't usually attend classes on such subjects. Most of those taking part in educational activities, from my observation, are young, but not all, and the youth are the hope for the future anyway.

An action like the encampment, even with all its obvious tactical and strategic deficiencies, is an important method of learning. From my political experience the things you learn while engaged in intense political endeavour with many other people educate you more quickly and stay with you far longer than most other forms of learning.

And in a related, but perhaps somewhat opportunistic way, the encampment provides a place for homeless people to gather and be a lot more comfortable/safe than while alley/doorway-crashing in the rain. At the same time it provides a visible reminder to those who would rather not be reminded of the growing problem of homelessness in Vancouver (and elsewhere), to which so much hot air and so little money/action has been devoted in recent years.

Ideally, the camp would grow into a locus for many progressive initiatives in coming months, though I realize this is only wishful thinking at this point. But the other aspects discussed above are, I believe, currently valuable reasons for opposing the camp's dismantling.

Gene McGuckin, Vancouver

People's Resolution ... continued from cover

RESOLVED, that we will create a standing working group focused on living up to these commitments and developing further actions in the spirit of addressing the problems of colonialism. We respectfully seek a pathway to prepare ourselves to build non-colonial relationships with Indigenous peoples and their lands. We are open to benefiting from the involvement, knowledges and participation that Indigenous peoples and communities want to offer this standing working group.

RESOLVED, that moving forward, we are open to potential forms of alliances, mutual learning, action and solidarity with local Indigenous peoples, when, and if, they view such cooperation to be appropriate and constructive for achieving change to our relationships.

Extending an open hand of humility and friendship, The Peoples' Assembly of Victoria respectfully recognizes the protocol breach of not approaching Lekwungen before convening this assembly on their land. We take this opportunity to ask for permission now.

We offer these gifts as a token of the Assembly's sincerity to address colonialism and all of our relations.

Let's Engage in Change: A Consensus Statement on the City of Victoria's Economic Development Strategy

written by

Nicole Chaland

Program Director, Certificate Program for Community Economic Development, Simon Fraser University
Vancouver Island Director, Co-operative Housing Federation of BC

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Canadian Centre for Community Renewal

Alan Dolan

Chair, Victoria Values-Based Business Network
Resigned from Victoria's Economic Development Advisory Panel over reservations about final Strategy

Rupert Downing

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CEO, First Power
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President, Gorge Tillicum Community Association

Rob Wipond

Communications Coordinator, Metro Vic. Community Economy Grp.

The City of Victoria's recently released Economic Development Strategy emphasizes a business-as-usual approach that includes building tourism, attracting outside investment and businesses, and expanding the airport.

Yet as we write this, Centennial Square is crowded with people, inspired by a movement seeking fundamental economic changes which has spread to hundreds of cities worldwide. And for good reasons.

In recent months, the United States government has twice come within hours of financial shut-down. National debt defaults have plunged the European Union into crisis. The Canadian government has boldly proclaimed "immunity," while quietly taking on billions in insecure bank debts and moving into lockstep with our provincial government with broad-based cuts in all sectors. Is this really where we're going to turn for help meeting our community's economic challenges? Has anyone even calculated how many local jobs all this has already cost, and how many millions of dollars have already been drained away from local savings?

Meanwhile, other crises converge upon us. The price of gas has nearly doubled in two years. Climate change seems poised to increase in pace exponentially. How will local businesses and tourism, transportation, municipal services, health care, and individual households be hit?

And more importantly, what are our practical plans to build stronger self-reliance and resilience as a community? We are facing a crisis, but we're also in the midst of an unprecedented opportunity to galvanize citizens throughout our region around truly innovative, environmentally responsible, and socially constructive economic changes.

Visit the website to read the rest of the Consensus Statement and add your name as a citizen, business or organization rep, or municipal election candidate!
www.communityeconomy.ca

Poverty is Expensive

There are 9500 children in BC Foster care system. 64% are First Nations. Most of These Children are in the Foster Care System because of poverty. Poverty is splitting the families.

There are an estimate of 12,000 homeless people in BC because of poverty. It cost us about \$3,000.00 per month for each foster child and homeless person out on the streets.

We cannot afford Poverty anymore.

Rose Henry, Coast Salish



Society's ills are rooted in the colonialist 'occupation.'

As someone who has put a lot of time and effort into direct action activism and protest politics, I am of course very interested in the whole 'occupy' movement happening lately.

Of course I am against globalization. Of course I am against capitalism. Of course I would love to see 'the people' get together and make positive change. I am very heartened by the fact that people are standing up.

I am still somewhat hibernating in the woods, spending a lot of time healing and writing, but I am in touch with friends who are attending Assemblies and the usual selection of community organizing meetings.

One of the issues I've been told has popped up is that of colonialism. This is no surprise to me, as myself and a number of friends make it a point to point out subtle impacts of colonialism at every meeting we go to that is dominated by non-indigenous people (which is most of the meetings).

The issue here is with the term 'occupy,' and the acknowledgment that Turtle Island is already occupied. Where I live, in Pacheedaht territory, there has never been a treaty, the land has never been ceded, and the land is illegally occupied by non-indigenous settlers and 'canadian' society.

Racism abounds in the mainstream discourse of this issue. I am not indigenous, and though I live in poverty, I have benefited greatly from the injustices that have occurred and continue to occur. I have benefited from a society that has prospered while committing genocide, and which continues to steal and destroy land from cultures whose very survival depends on the health of that land. I see with my own eyes what is happening.

I would like to point out to those people who are not that familiar with the ideas of the anti-colonial movements that it is not about indigenous people kicking white people out. That is a false argument, thrown up to deflect real conversation away from the issue. The vast majority of indigenous people I know don't want to kick white people out and dissolve Canada. They want us to acknowledge where we are and how we got here and to move forward in a truthful way, an honourable and just way. That doesn't mean moving back to Ireland, but at the very least, it means being mindful of the truth, and our histories.

Pacheedaht continue to have to purchase drinking water from town and live in crumbling homes with plastic tarped roofs. Acknowledgment of the on-going colonialism, occupation and genocide of indigenous people here is not a trivial matter.

I hope we do manage to rise up against the forces that have exploited us and cause the world such harm, but before we do that we need to look a little deeper and acknowledge the truth of our situations. This land has already been occupied, is still occupied, and the way we frame/describe our actions and movements is very important.

For more information please read:

www.racialicious.com/2011/09/30/occupy-wall-street-the-game-of-colonialism-and-further-nationalism-to-be-decolonized-from-the-left/

tequilasovereign.blogspot.com/2011/10/manna-hata.html?spref=fb

Chris Johnson, Pacheedaht

What do the 'Occupiers' Want?

This is a frequently asked question. The answer, at this time I suggest, is 'We the People' don't know yet.

It is a question too early to ask because 'We the People,' the 'Occupiers,' the 99%er want is not yet clear to us. It will only become know when a national consensus develops over time.

Of all the things that require change, which are the critical ones? What are the key understandings that would make everything clear to everyone.

Our understanding will grow as ideas percolate up to the national level and interact and transform into our more fundamental understanding of the changes required. As fundamental chords are struck they will resonate nationally and advance our understanding.

Out of this process, we 99%ers will gradually understand what fundamental changes will be required then move to make them.

How long will it take? As long as required.

As consensus converges it might focus on governance - perhaps government of, for and by We the People.

Gerry Masuda, Duncan

'Occupy' the BC Supreme Court

Why turn 'Occupiers' attention to BC Supreme Court? Because this is where citizens are routinely divested of their rights to public property and given over to corporations who through their lawyers maintain that the corporations, too, are persons. I saw a sign in Zuccotti Park on the internet that read: "I'll believe corporations are persons when Texas executes one." And so will I.

I have had long experience with the personhood of logging corporations. By past court decisions (case law) that held corporations to actually be persons, our BC Supreme Court equates a dispute between real persons seeking to protect their public forests versus voracious logging companies bent on clear cutting the said forest, as a dispute between two persons. That's it. And in these cases the BC Supreme Court has already given the logging corporation a piece of paper (injunction) that declares (in legal language) that the corporation's personhood tops that of real persons, and an environmental protester, if he or she protests this crazy making kind of justice, will wind up in prison.

And it isn't just in cases of the triumph of corporate personhood that our courts are the courts of the 1%. Remember how Madam Justice Benet, an honest judge, who was in the process of giving consent for Verk and Basi to testify and call high political officers into account over the corrupt BC Railway sale (Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark come to mind) when Madam Justice Benet was given an abrupt elevation to BC Court of Appeal? And replaced with a judge who allowed an award of two million dollars to be given Verk and Basi if they would plead guilty and go away? Who could have confidence in such a court? When the BC Supreme Court is so obviously in the service of the 1%? Not I.

Betty Krawczyk, Vancouver Island

Notwithstanding

by James Taggart

Section 33 of the Canadian Constitution, also known as the Notwithstanding Clause, may be the single most powerful weapon in the war against capitalism socialists have ever had. Notwithstanding, New Democratic Party Provincial governments have never used this legislation. Why? It is not because they have not had the opportunities.

Section 33 of the Canadian Constitution states:

33.(1) Parliament or the legislature of a province may expressly declare in an Act of Parliament or of the legislature, as the case may be, that the Act or a provision thereof shall operate notwithstanding a provision included in section 2 or sections 7 to 15 of this Charter.

(2) An Act or a provision of an Act in respect of which a declaration made under this section is in effect shall have such operation as it would have but for the provision of this Charter referred to in the declaration.

(3) A declaration made under subsection (1) shall cease to have effect five years after it comes into force or on such earlier date as may be specified in the declaration.

(4) Parliament or the legislature of a province may re-enact a declaration made under subsection (1).

(5) Subsection (3) applies in respect of a re-enactment made under subsection (4).

Saskatchewan's Conservative Premiere, Grant Devine, used it in 1988 to squash the rights of labour unions, but did Roy Romanow turn around and use it to nationalize the potash industry or rewrite the contracts and pensions of the highest paid managers and administrators working in the Provincial government when he took office with a huge majority in 1991?

Or did Bob Rae, in 1990, use it to force Bay Street's financial markets out of wasting capital resources on speculating and hedging and force them to invest in ventures that generated employment in the manufacturing, tertiary and resource recovery industries when his party won a general election and he became Premiere of the largest Province in Canada?

In British Columbia Mike Harcourt and Glen Clarke, starting in 1991, both had the opportunity to pass legislation that would have forced foreign multi-nationals out of our forests, waters and mines; to start. They could have written laws the targeted specific industries and corporations within those industries. They could have refused to give or renew business licenses for specific companies, or increased the stumpage fee for foreign owned companies, like Macmillan Bloedel. Better yet, not give licenses for companies that wanted to sell raw logs, thus, challenging the Federal government's right to impose the World Trade Organization's rules on British Columbians. There are so many things they could have done, but they didn't. Why?

It is not because Section 8 (seizure of property) and Section 15 (equality before the law) are exempt from its application, because they are not. It is not because those laws could potentially be challenged in a court of law, thus delaying

their implementation, because they could not for at least 5 years or on such earlier date as may be specified in the declaration.

The 1990s began with Canadians, in three significantly different provinces, seeking genuine change in the ways and means of government. What they got were, so called, Socialist governments that did nothing to further the cause of Socialism or undermine the foundations of capitalism in their respective Provinces. They did not work together to flex their combined assets in order to corral a Federal government gone wild with its own power.

Why did the New Democratic Parties of Canada not use the Notwithstanding Clause to change the face of Canada? Because, the New Democratic Parties of Canada are led by Liberals not Socialists! Bob Rae, Roy Romanow, Mike Harcourt and Glen Clarke never had an idea how to go about constructing a Socialist agenda. Unionism is Not socialism. Unionism wants a padded yoke, Socialism wants to take it off. If a government was doing its job there would be no need for unions, they would be superfluous.

There is nothing so seductive or insidious as Liberalism in politics. At least with a Conservative you know what you're getting. They are bought and paid for by wealthy corporations and individuals who profit from the inequalities in our society and around the world. They don't hide from it, they embrace it. They believe that some people should have privilege and others should not. A Liberal, on the other hand, is someone who feels guilty about the inequalities inherent in the system, but not so guilty as to actually initiate solutions to the causes. They would rather create costly bandages that result in a government that is a bureaucratic mess. A Liberal cannot eliminate the causes of inequality because they believe they are a necessary part of the landscape. Liberals simply like to sit at the captain's table and act like they are steering the ship.

Socialist government does not have to manage our affairs incompetently, it just does when the leaders are Liberals. The policies followed by Bob Rae, Roy Romanow, Mike Harcourt and Glen Clarke demonstrated a fundamental lack of faith in Socialism. As Liberals, they were afraid of the depression that private money markets would try to create in response to a government that seizes corporate and private assets. They believed that in the bid to replace capital's hegemonic control over the world's economies and societies the world economies would grind to a halt. What do they think is happening now? A system based on greed is bound to collapse in on itself.

Maybe, even more importantly, they were unwilling to challenge the Federal government for control over their own economies, markets and banks. Lest we forget, the original British North American Act did not give the powers of taxation to the Federal government (duties and levies only) and sought to limit its participation in the marketplace by giving those powers to the Provinces. The British Parliament was conscious of the diversity of Peoples living in North America and attempted to create a nation of nations. The Federal government has since done a way with that vision. Much like the current powers of the Prime Minister's Office has done away with the need for Parliament and the Cabinet. The banks and PMO have given themselves the powers to restrict the Provinces rights

to manage their own affairs.

For decades the NDP leadership has allowed the capitalists to define Socialism. They have stood blindly by as the capitalist have convinced the electorate that Socialism is against entrepreneurship, the marketplace, balanced budgets and the sound fiscal management of the public's assets. Further, they have successfully fostered the misconception that Socialism means big government. Unfortunately for the cause, they have had the governments of Bob Rae, Roy Romanow, Mike Harcourt and Glen Clarke as shining examples of Socialism's incompetence.

For the sake of Canada's NDP leadership, a Socialist agenda would begin with the nationalization of the banks, insurance industry and pension funds. Canada's banks and financial institutions are what they are today because of the monopoly given to them by a corrupted Federal government. When Canadians are suffering banks show profits. When Canada's young entrepreneurs need capital, banks lend it to those who already have wealth. Nationalize them, audit them and redistribute their wealth.

What is government if it is not insurance? Why does government get all the costs related to the insurance of Canadians and the capital markets get the revenues? Canadians need the revenues generated from insurance to help cover the costs of government. If government provided insurance, the saving in salaries for doctors alone could save the electorate significant resources.

Who should have the profits from this market? Wealthy corporations or Canadians? Pension funds belong to those who laboured to provide for their old age. But who really benefits. Truth is that pension funds are a grazing ground for the financial markets, con artists and disreputable corporations. Ripped off and exploited, pension funds reflect their intended beneficiaries. Further, why should a member of parliament get a six figure pension and a mentally handicapped individual on a disability pension live in misery below the poverty line? Is that what the majority of Canadians want? With control over these three industries a Socialist government would have the resources necessary to redistribute the wealth of British Columbia and Canada so that more Canadians benefit from our nation's and province's assets. Any market that is vital to a region of Canada (i.e. forestry in BC), or Canada as a whole, should either be nationalized or the government should enter the market (i.e. energy industry-gasoline production) as a player, thus forcing private companies to act responsibly or lose their share of the market.

Protectionism is what the majority of Canadians need from the ravages of a capitalist oriented international economy. Capital does not care if Canada has a 10% or 20% unemployment rate. In many cases it benefits from the misery. It is our government's responsibility to represent and protect Canadians from outside forces. Liberals and Conservatives cannot represent or protect the electorate because they represent capital's best interests first and foremost. Socialism is a value system, an ideal. It is an ideal based on harmony, compassion and the liberty of personal expression. Capitalism, on the other hand, creates conflict, lacks compassion and stifles many while favouring a few. Capitalism is immoral. Ultimately, capitalism must be faced and challenged for the authority to control Canada's destiny and place in the world.

Ponder the historical continuum of resistance

Our media are asking what the participants of Occupy Wall St. are protesting, who their leaders are, do they intend to become the Tea Party of the Left?

If they read some history they would learn that the 19th century anarchist movement led to the 8 hour work-day, right to unionize and universal suffrage. The Bioneers Movement of today is bringing together thinking people concerned about threats to climate, environment and biodiversity, the future of Planet Earth and mankind.

Neither of these movements had or have a leader, hierarchy, membership list or manifesto. Similarly the 'Occupy Wall St.' [Arab Spring] phenomenon represents

a simultaneous convergence of people concerned about globalization, concentration of wealth and power, erosion of basic human rights and the economic and social marginalization of the majority. In part they are responding to the emergence of 21st century Bandit Bankers to replace the Robber Barons of the 1900s.

This movement will not evolve into a political party because a political platform would stifle its power. Instead it is likely to incubate many initiatives among diverse groups that perceive the danger of the path that our planet seems to be on and hopefully help correct its course.

Julius Treigys, Victoria





ask hothead !

poverty pimping, what is it and, what is it good for?

ok, i am going to answer part 2 first. The answer is, “absolutely nothing.” Say it again? “Poverty pimping,” hmph, what is it good for, absolutely nothing.”

Where did the term come from?

From the reality of folks getting work off of “poverty industry” rather than “homes first” initiatives. I first heard it in the downtown east side of Vancouver and it made me feel defensive. I had lengthy and passionate discussions with quite a few front line workers. I worked the front line since I got clean and sober. Started two years into my sobriety with AA as my main support.

Far too many front line workers are lost in the defensive mode around their work, their labour and their love around “helping” fields. Poverty pimping is literally living off the avails of poverty industry. Solutions are thrown out the window replaced by temporary homes, temporary everything! Often temporary poverty pimping jobs, no job security due to attacks on Unions and management placed in situations whereby they shut up and sign on the dotted line often for that mortgage and to pay that student loan and so on.

I began my poverty pimping career at the North Villa Treatment Center in Calgary. Over to South Villa Half Way House one year later. Years later it was Alpha House drop in and detox. After some years and an Alta. Forestry Tower job later I moved from Calgary to Victoria and helped open and develop policies for the Sandy Merriman House.

I then worked at PEERS, the first peer run organisation that begins challenging the poverty pimping systems, I helped to develop their outreach program. A.V.I. has also been challenging the poverty pimping systems in how their programs are run with peer leadership.

I moved to Vancouver and was asked to apply at a consensus run organisation called the BC Compassion Club. I was honored to get the job due to my extensive work in front line, specifically multiple issues of health, addiction and conflict resolution. I helped to envision and implement their current, much adapted, conflict resolution policy.

Since I have been diagnosed and on disability for the past few years, I have been placed in a rather interesting situation. I have been poor these past few years, sometimes close to the street. Did I mention I was born and raised in poverty in the North End of Winnipeg?

I was born into poverty, survived being homeless in Calgary between the age of 16 and 19 and, many years ago put a needle in my arm with illicit drugs. I chose to stay away from the illicit drug users. Until recently, due to the work on the documentary I have been bottom lining, and due to my own near homelessness once again going to services for past and present illicit drug users, I am experiencing many front line workers’ discomfort and uncertainty about how to “be” with me, they often “disassociate” from me, as do some other housed individuals in the community. Many relationships have gotten closer, many have ended in the knowing that, all the best to you, let’s not see each other that much ‘cause its just too painful to witness such discomfort over me, little ole me. Soon I’ll tackle “avoiders of conflict,” the most passive aggressive peeps I know.”

Back to poverty pimping and examples: Travelers Inn owner acquired financial backing to help switch one of his hotels into an affordable housing unit for those very hard to house folks he has helped over many years, when no one else did! No cost to the tax payer, affordable housing? Lets GO! No? Why not? The City wouldn’t approve it, saying it’s not good enough for the poor, not tasteful enough. Do you mean like the Travelers Inn the City is running thru VIHA on Queens? Have you seen that one? Its horrible, people go down fast in there, it looks like they house cattle! In participatory research those studied are asked “what do you want?” Turns out, many would line up for this guy’s affordable housing!

Could it be that, as the Windsor Law Group Keyvan Shojania states clearly in his interview with me for the up and coming documentary “Taking the Fall” that “the cost of Rock Bay Landing would have been, give or take, 500 thousand per unit, that’s much higher than any market housing...” Now that’s what i call poverty pimping at its best. Taxpayers pay higher costs to line developers greedy pockets thru Government contracts towards temporary and transitional housing with no residential tenancy agreement for the homeless person.

So, no permanent HOMES since the feds passed the buck to the provinces who have not picked it up since 1995!

In the meantime, we could have a Project Connect every month, the need is so great. Project Connect shares important services and stuff to help folks re: healthcare, services that was previously covered by the money sucking ministry! Once again, volunteers are doing government jobs. We are so desperate to see good, to help, to ease suffering. Never time to stand still long enuff to listen. Folks are so busy doing charity that they cannot fight for homes, fight this government, sacrifice anything more for community! Government and corporations living the high life and look at us!

Jobs in the front line field must include the understanding that, as war and revolt builds globally and locally, we must insist upon Homes Now. Help single moms, help First Nations, help the homeless of many colors and you will help this whole world. Jobs kill, capitalism is out of control and this greed kills and leaves a wasteland for us regular folks. Meanwhile, the Nimrods build bigger tanks and homes for themselves and grow weak with ignorance.

We have an opportunity locally to vote in a young energised environmentally green pro “Homes Now” mayoral candidate who seems on top of the Global Movement, that’s Steve Filipovic. We have Lisa Helps and her potential to bring us together and tackle these difficult issues (check out her videos). Ben Isitt is ready and eager to help Victoria be the amazing city it has potential to be. Rose Henry has run again as well as Jon Valentine, the alternatives are available, place your vote and then follow it up.

Also, I’d like to say thanks to Mayor Dean Fortin for kinda helping getting the ball rolling and lining up temporary services and so many jobs in poverty pimping, time to step aside and allow our youth to lead. We may need the bandaids and, we still need the longer term solutions called permanent homes. The time is now for real change that can stir it up for us all. I am not naive, neither is Steve. Folks like us know what we are all up against and we are ready. Are you?

I allege that Rock Bay Landing, however beautiful you may say it is, was over priced and greedy developers used Victorians’ urgency around the issue of homelessness for their own pocket books. We could have a tent city for our homeless, instead we have police attacking David Arthur Johnston around the right to sleep campaign by stomping all over his basic human rights, his rights as a Canadian citizen. The oppressive way in which Mayor Dean Fortin finds it necessary to state to media that the “tenters at Centennial Square are not homeless” is poor bashing and stigmatising.

“Food Riots” in North Africa and the Middle East ignited an “Arab Spring,” which sparked what is now called the Global Autumn. Like in New York, many folks here understand the connections between folks on Lekwungen Territory struggling for land claim issues and the homeless struggling to find land to tent on, connections between stressed students in debt and homeless students struggling, between police state around our First Nations homeless and between working families struggling while also under police surveillance based on stigma.

On this planet as I write, there is either all out war in almost every civilised country, where there is no war, there are uprisings! Citizens of Victoria are waking up to a difficult understanding globally, that, unless we are actively working to end suffering of the many poor and oppressed, if we are not fighting like all our lives depend on it, for our First Nations, our land, our homeless, opening empty houses now and filling them with the homeless, get home support, family support, open a safe consumption site, less police and more front line workers and social workers doing outreach into the poverty pimping transitional housing that exists. If we are not doing some or part or all of this, we are poverty pimping.

Anyways, the world is changing and we need to change with it. Institutionalisation has occurred on a mass scale, we are all too used to band aids/hand outs/charity stints. The day we accept we truly are all in this together, is the day we heal community. “Chips on shoulders” days are behind us folks, all of us! No matter our stature in society. Action is what is needed now.

In the spirit of beliefs felt by many locally, the creator never said there would not be conflict, that difference would not be so painful. I just don’t think the creator realised just how destructive systemic oppression can get, just how out of control. If “god” did see this, I guess “god” figured there’d be more people who would care enough to stop it, no matter what the cost.

Kym Hothead is a visitor on Lekwungen Territory, from Winnipeg Red River Cree Territory, my mom was an Acadian (Bourgue) and Dad was a Métis (Gladue).

Change is Constant

by cyann ray

Carol and her little, sweateder schnauzer Kiley have left the neighbourhood. After living in James Bay for 30 years, she moved to the mainland to be closer to her children. Carol and her pup were the first “friendlies” my dog and I met when we moved into the hood 2+ yrs ago and their departure has left a notable hole in our morning routine. Carol was a little sad about having to leave her ocean coastline backyard. At eighty something such a big change can be a challenge. Few octogenarians get to live out their lives in their family homes.

Another eighty something James Bay resident left us this summer. Constance was a long-time supporter of *Victoria Street Newz*. She has passed on ... somewhere other than the mainland. Within weeks her well-worn tiny home was demolished, and a fresh new abode is rapidly being constructed. As a relative newcomer to this hood, I am surprised how these changes are effecting me.

Change is a part of life. Families are reshaped as elders go and young’uns arrive. Homes are torn down, folks move away and change happens. It’s how we as a species survive ... change to a changing environment. Right now there are thousands of people demanding change. Many of them are living in tents down at city hall. But that too shall change as politicians and business owners lose their compassion and patience. Besides...there are plans for a skating rink this winter ... the protesters must move along.

What are folks protesting anyways? I believe they are worried about the exploitative nature of our capitalist system and are simply fed up with the blatant inequalities that exist as a result. The insanity of spending billions on wars abroad while neighbourhood children go hungry is hard to swallow. Even in our sleepy little city examples of absurd expenditures abound while those in need are abandoned. There always seems to be money available for such unnecessary excesses like “street beautification” projects and public art but no funds to improve the basic living conditions of the poor.

We are long overdue for a systemic change. Some believe that “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” And I would be the first to leave well enough alone if things were running well. But clearly things are not running well, not for the majority of Canadians, not for the majority of humans on the planet. The evils of capitalism are global. A handful of fat cats raking in criminal-sized salaries are lounging about at the top of the heap patting each other on the back about their latest million, while the rest of us struggle. There is enough food on Earth to feed and satiate everyone, yet global policies starve billions of people. How can that be okay with anybody? Surely even the most staunch conservative can see the need for change.

It’s so easy to do nothing. I admire those folks willing to sleep outside on concrete trying to let the world know enough is enough. With winter approaching along with that annual over-consumptive season I fear these brave souls will be pushed aside for commerce and convenience. Shameful.

Change is overdue ... VOTE for change.

David Johnston's in jail again

by Tavis Dodds

On November 2nd David Arthur Johnston was sentenced to sixty days in jail for six counts of erecting a tent within the hours of seven and seven.

The court heard how David's recent appeal was rejected on October 18th and David pled guilty for camping at the Centennial Square at City Hall with the People's Assembly (Occupy Victoria) movement of several dozen people that have been breaking the by-law for nearly a month.

City lawyer Troy DeSouza argued for the maximum sentencing of six months and/or ten thousand dollars for each count of erecting a tent in the daytime. The judge said, before he gave his sentencing, that he enjoys camping and the fresh air.

Saanich and Victoria mayoral candidate David Shebib was allowed to address the court, as he is facing similar charges scheduled for January, and claimed DeSouza had lied to the court so as to prevent the campers from bringing new evidence, and protested against the whole proceedings as contemptible.

A former mayoral candidate was forced to leave the courtroom after she announced that nobody was announcing that David Johnston wouldn't be eating in jail. Another man was asked to leave for saying that they will kill him. Then bailiffs ushered David Shebib out of court. Several young children sat quietly. People's Assembly (Occupy Victoria) campers filled the courtroom.

Johnston was given ten days served for time he has spent waiting for today's court. His plan is to fast in Wilkinson Road Penitentiary. "It is that important," he told the court. "This city needs a refugee camp, not an internment camp. You are locking up one of the experts in refugee camps in a time when you need a refugee camp more than ever. There will not be a tourism industry for more than a year. The Chamber of Commerce has to be dismantled."

Johnston noted that he had not used money since 2003, "so it's been a long trip for me." To which the judge nodded. David has done four sentences of just over a month each without food, and two of them were back to back. David pins a note on himself that reads "Do not resuscitate." His mother, Lea Johnston, is currently en route to Victoria from Blackfalds Alberta.

David asked if it was strange that he had been charged twice, and that he was released the last time because of lost paperwork. The Judge saw nothing abnormal in that. He had been arrested at City Hall on the same charge six days prior and arrested the second time a day after an article appeared in the Vancouver Sun. In the evenings before both arrests Dean Fortin and City spokespeople announced that campers in Centennial Square would not be charged. In a vote to council the camp was allowed to stay in the square indefinitely, but not, said Dean Fortin, for people like David Johnston, who use the place for their private use.



Apart from the very briefest mention by David Shebib, no mention was made about the Supreme Court ruling that Victoria's previous camping by-law had been struck down as unconstitutional, but Shebib did mention that Mme Justice Carol Ross had denied the city when they applied to have the words "at night" added to her ruling.

Tavis has been floating back and forth across Canada for 5 years of solidarity with the homeless, as both a homeless person and a homeless activist. photo: David at the People's Assembly camp.

David Arthur Johnston's Police and Courts Encounter List: 2004-2010

editor's note: I've printed David's list in its entirety to illustrate the lengthy history and highlight significant moments. David's book, [The Right To Sleep](#), is available at [Amazon.com](#), or in the [Victoria Public Library \(305.5692 JOH\)](#) along with a DVD documentary titled "Love and Fearlessness" (305.5692 LOV).

Sunday, January 25th, 2004- held for 5 days without pleading- charges dropped (I don't remember the charge).

Not far after Feb. 1st, 2004- arrested for obstruction of justice and assault by trespass. Trial set for March 25th, 2004. (I breached this UTA and it was dropped- I figure I'm learning).

Friday, March 5th, 2004- trial confirmation- 'crown' stays the assault by trespass Thursday, March 25th, 2004- 'crown' stays the obstruction of justice. Friday, March 26th, 2004- throw me in back of car, and release me in front of police station. Sunday, March 28th, 2004- arrested for contravening the 'Properties Control and Management Bylaw No. 416(2)'.. released without conditions and told to be in court for the 30th of April (when I showed for that there was no record of my need to be there).

Monday, March 29th, 2004- arrested for Assault by trespass (they try to get me to sign a condition to not sleep on any private property in Victoria- I refuse and they release me with charges dropped). Tuesday, March 30th, 2004- arrested for breach of peace, released in morning. Wednesday, March 31st, 2004- arrested for breach of peace, released in morning. Thursday, April 1st, 2004- police come, then leave. Thursday, April 15th, 2004- security guard tells me the 'crown' has no intention of arresting me. Friday, April 16th, 2004- (maybe the night preceding) Arrested for breach of peace, released in morning. Friday, April 23rd, 2004- (maybe the preceding night) the first night for the 'not letting me sleep' security guards. Sunday, April 25th, 2004- police take my flutes and blankets, no ticket or badge numbers.

Sunday, May 9th, 2004- arrested for 'breaching a condition' for a charge that had been dropped. Charge was cleared and I was released. Tuesday, May 11th, 2004- arrested for breach of peace, release very early. Friday, May 14th, 2004- arrested for breach of peace, released in morning. Saturday, May 15th, 2004- arrested for Assault by Trespass', charge changed to breach of peace, released in morning. Monday, May 17th, 2004- police came in morning, arrested me and dropped me off outside of city limits (past the Jubilee Hospital on Foul Bay road). Tuesday, May 18th, 2004- arrested for breach of peace, released in morning.

Wednesday, May 19th, 2004- police come in morning, 'arrest' me (no rights reading or anything)- cuffs on- drive out to the Town and Country Mall (about a 40 minute walk away) which is outside of city limits and drop me off- they suggested that next time they will take me out to the Malahat (a highway far out of town- maybe about 20KM away).

Monday, May 24th, 2004- police came in morning, arrested me and dropped me off outside of city limits (past the Jubilee Hospital on Foul Bay road). Saturday, May 29th, 2004- police are called and say they are not responding. Friday, July 9th, 2004- police come, arrest me, then drop me off at Finlayson Road (out of city limits).

Sunday, July 11th, 2004- get a police driven tour of Dallas Road (ocean side) to a golf course (where Dallas road turns towards Oak Bay), and a pleasant walk back on a clear starry night. Wednesday, August 4th, 2004- police came and found me and my friend getting ready to sleep- in as much condescending and presumptive stance they could be in they 'arrested' us for 'breach of peace' and drove us out to Shelburne and Lansdowne (SP?) (about an hour's walk back). Friday, September 10th, 2004- friend and I are sleeping, police come at request of security, then leave, leaving us there. Tuesday, November 4th, 2004- Arrested for 'Assault by Trespass', next morning charge changes to 'Mischief' (due to my inspiration to get arrested for anything A.K.A. spreading cardboard house around their backyard). Plea date set for Nov. 19th. Friday, November 19th, 2004- trial set for Dec. 21st. trial confirmation on Dec. 8th. Wednesday, December 8th, 2004- all ducks in row for the trial. Tuesday, December 21st, 2004- plead not guilty to the Mischief. Found guilty. Sentenced to conditions (a no go to St. Ann's for 6 months and probation). I do not sign conditions and return to St. Ann's that night.

Tuesday, December 21st, 2004- arrested for breaching the condition of the conviction. Signed UTA (Undertaking To Appear: an agreement to not to back to St. Ann's until the breach trial).

Wednesday, December 29th, 2004- found guilty of breach, sentenced to 1 day in jail (5 hours in court cells).

Wednesday, December 29th, 2004- 2nd arrest for breaching condition of conviction. Released in morning after signing a UTA to return to plea on the 6th of January (2005). Thursday, January 6th, 2005- plead guilty. Sentencing day on January 13th.

Thursday, January 13th, 2005- sentenced to 3 days in jail (1 day- re: 2/3rds time for good behaviour).

Sunday, January 16th, 2005- 3rd arrest for breaching condition of conviction. Signed UTA to return on Jan. 21st.

Friday, January 21st, 2005- sentenced to 7 days in jail (4 days).

Thursday, January 27th, 2005- arrested for 4th breach of condition of sentence. Signed UTA to return for Feb. 11th.

Friday, Feb 11th, 05- sentenced to 7 days in jail (4 days).

Wednesday, February 16th, 2005- arrested for 5th breach of condition of sentence. Sentenced the next day with 14 days in jail (10 days).

Monday, February 28th, 2005- arrested for 6th breach of condition of the conviction. Sentenced next morning to 30 days in jail (20 days).

Monday, March 28th, 2005- arrested for 7th breach of condition of conviction. Signed UTA to not return at least until April 25th.

Monday, April 25th, 2005- plea date set for May 9th.

Monday, May 9th, 2005- trial date set for September 23rd, 2005. trial confirmation date set for August 23rd.

Friday, September 23rd, 2005- judge to give verdict on Oct, 25th, 2005. I continue to honour undertaking, while others begin tent-city at St. Ann's.

Tuesday, October 25th, 2005- I was found guilty of 7th breach of Mischief conviction. Returning to court on Oct. 28th to be sentenced.

Friday, October 28th, 2005- ridiculous conditional sentence (community hours and such)... almost like it was designed for me to breach. Also, police came and stole a whole bunch of tent-city stuff. Not arresting anyone because after their stuff was stolen they were no longer violating the injunction at Cridge Park (which the St. Ann's tent-city had moved to a couple weeks previous because of an injunction there).

Saturday, October 29th, 2005- I was arrested for 'Obstruction of Justice' for stepping on a tarp at the courthouse lawn. To return to court for this on Dec. 29th, 2005. 2 others were arrested for 'Assault by Trespass'. Returned to St. Ann's and was arrested for breaching the breach. Spent 8 days in jail. Lawyer got 7th breach conditions held off until the appeal which is to happen March 8th, 2006.

Sunday, December 4th, 2005- arrested for putting wood in burning barrel ('Obstruction of Justice') on gravel soccer field in Beacon Hill park where a new tent-city was being proposed. To return to court Dec. 12th to plea. One condition of release was "Do nothing to aid, abet or promote any breach of the peace and comply with all directions of any peace Officer or Bylaw Officer." Kinda weird.

Monday, December 12th, 2005- plead 'not-guilty' to both obstruction charges. Couthouse lawn fiasco will be heard on Jan. 9th, 2006. Burning barrel will be heard on Feb. 17th, 2006.

Monday, January 9th, 2006- date moved to Feb. 3rd, 2006.

Friday, February 3rd, 2006- found guilty. 'Red zoned' from 4 different parks. Judge exclaims that "everyone is afraid of anarchy". Many revealing moments. I sign no conditions and leave. I have no intention of treating the courts or crown with any authority, any longer. Do not report to probation anymore.

Sunday, February 26th, 2006- arrested again.

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2006- released from 3 weeks of fasting in jail. Don't know what I was charged with only that I had returned to St. Ann's. Could be one of any number of possible charges.

Sunday, April, 2nd, 2006- returned to St. Ann's.

Friday, April 21st, 2006- just released. Again, don't really know on what charge the arrest was based. Did 18 days in seg. fasting.

Monday, May 1st, 2006- returned to St. Ann's. Released 8 days later, agreeing to not go back to St. Ann's, at least, until I officially present my case to the Victoria police (just so I can say I took that step). Again, don't know exactly what charge I violated.

Tuesday, June 27th, 2006- returned to St. Ann's. released next day after signing condition to return to Alberta.

Tuesday, July 4th, 2006- returned to St. Ann's to give myself up because I cannot adhere to the condition I signed on the 28th of June. Sentenced to 90 days and 120 days to be served consecutively.

Wednesday, August 9th, 2006- released on bail after fasting 36 days. Sentence appeal will happen Oct. 16th. Agreeing to not return to St. Ann's while a charter challenge is in process (challenging the city's anti-camping bylaws). Will find out exact date soon. I expect to adhere.

Tuesday, Sept 12th, 06- The Charter Challenge is scheduled for a nine day trial starting Sept 4th, 07.

Monday, October 16th, 2006- Took most of the day, Crown was merciless. Judge is saving his ruling until Friday (Oct. 20th) at 1:30PM.

Sunday, October 22nd, 2006- hearing for ruling adjourned.

Tuesday, October 24th, 2006- The judge is set to give his ruling at 1:45 PM on Friday (Oct. 27th).

Saturday, October 28th, 2006- 1 night at Wilkinson to finish the sentence for both charges. It was taken down from 210 days to 56 days. So, I'll hold off on St. Ann's until September and the Charter Challenge. Monday, August 13th, 2007- The judge denied the city's application for a permanent injunction and ordered the city to pay 'costs' to the lawyers (Catherine and Irene) for wasting their time.

Wednesday, September 5th, 2007- city attempts discontinuance of Charter Challenge. The 'master' (seemed astute enough) is going to give his ruling on Friday morning. Friday, September 7th, 2007- The court denied the city its 'discontinuance'.

Monday, September 10th, 2007- Charter Challenge set aside until Sept. 12th to determine if a summary trial is appropriate. Attorney general's office joins with the city in attempting to stage off the Charter Challenge. Friday, September 14th, 2007- false arrest at St. Ann's for violating the permanent injunction that is on St. Ann's until 2008 (what does permanent mean again?). They take me to the copshop and leave me in the car. Meanwhile they've told my friends that they will be able to see me on Monday when I would go in front of a judge... so they all leave. Police drive me back to St. Ann's because the injunction doesn't go into affect until 11:00 PM.

Wednesday, October 10th, 2007- The trial is tentatively scheduled for January 22nd. The province is going to try and strike the whole thing in court on October 30th and 31st because of a technicality.

Tuesday, October 30th, 2007- We didn't even get to the point where the province tried to drop it because the city lawyers 'needed' to ascertain the definition of 'abode' from the city council and they need to wait until the next council meeting to see if abode means cabin or tent... I know. I know.

Saturday, November 17th, 2008- city determines 'abode' to mean tent, tarp or cardboard structure.

Tuesday, November 27th, 2007- The Charter Challenge set for 10 days was to happen January 22nd, 2008. Now, with agreement on both sides the time needed is shortened to 5 days, making the NEW DATE for the CHARTER CHALLENGE to be on JANUARY 27th, 2008.

Wednesday, January 9th, 2008- the Provincial Government of BC brings us to a BC Supreme Court judge to attempt a discontinuance of the 'Right to Sleep' Charter Challenge. One of the 'crown' lawyers got sick so the discontinuance application has been postponed, probably until next week. Our lawyer also said that it is likely that the main trial, (pending our success at the province's attempt to squash it) that is scheduled for Jan. 28th, could very well be postponed as well... until late spring/early summer.

Wednesday, January 23rd, 2008- The province's attempt to discontinue the case has been set for 2 days during the week of FEBRUARY 18th, 2008. The 'Right to Sleep' Charter Challenge has been rescheduled for a 5 day trial beginning on JUNE 16th, 2008 (pending our success in Feb.).

Tuesday, February 19th, 2008. Unfortunately, there is no judge available again today. This happens from time to time. The Trial Coordinator tells us that the courts all over the province are extremely busy this week. So, we continue the waiting game. We'll keep you posted.

Monday, February 25th, 2008- discontinuance attempt is set for 2 days in the week of MARCH 3rd, 2008.

Thursday, March 6th, 2008- The 'Right to Sleep' Charter Challenge will proceed (excepting martial law or alien attack) as scheduled on JUNE 16TH, 2008, for its five day trial.

Monday to Friday, June 16th to June 20th- Right to Sleep Charter Challenge. Justice Ross reserves her ruling.

Monday, June 23rd, 2008- false arrest at St. Ann's for breaching a condition that hasn't existed since Oct. 2006.

Tuesday, October 14th, 2008- Madam justice Ross rules "... In these circumstances I have concluded that the course that is most appropriate is to grant a declaration that the Bylaws are of no force and effect insofar as they apply to prevent homeless people from erecting temporary shelter."

Friday, October 17th, 2008- myself and 4 others are arrested for Obstruction for not complying with the new 7-7 tent policy (video of arrest- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXm_27f4lnw). First appearance set for Nov. 28th, 2008.

Tuesday, October 30th, 2008- set up under the tree in Centennial Square. Was arrested with 3 others the next morning passed 7:00 AM. Very amateur instigation by cops. Spent 6 days in jail. trial to be set Nov. 12th, 2008.

Wednesday, Nov 12th, 2008- in an effort to combine the 4 that were arrested for obstruction (for not voluntarily dismantling a tent) we've agreed to come back to court WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH to set the trial date for all of us, instead of 4 individual trials.

Wednesday, November 19th, 2008- After spending the entire afternoon in the courthouse, once getting the Justice of the Peace to say I could set a trial date the 'Crown' called someone higher up and the 'Crown' strenuously asked again only to have us all wait for Monday to set a trial date. They did not dwell on the fact that that's what we did already to get to today. Anyhoo, on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2008 at 9:00 AM in the Victoria Law Courts, room #103, we head back to consolidate our trials into one... I really really presume that we'll actually get a trial date- though we'll see if the city does something to avoid being charge with contempt.

Monday, November 24th, 2008- Got to court this morning to set a trial date for the arrests at Centennial Square. The 'Crown' stayed the proceedings, meaning the charges were dropped for all four people. I, and four others still have 'first appearance' on November 28th for the Beacon Hill Park arrests that happen just days after the BC Supreme Court came out with its ruling that allows for homeless people to erect 'temporary abodes' in municipal public access spaces and I'll see if those are stayed as well before re-asserting myself against the illegal enforcement policy.

Sunday, November 30th, 2008- Monday night people returned to Centennial Square, where the arrests happened and, again, erected a temporary abode. Talking to the media the next day it was confirmed that the 'Crown' stayed the proceedings because the Bylaw Enforcement Policy is not Constitutionally defensible. The city took the position that, even though people could not be arrested for Obstruction, tickets could still be given out. Throughout a magnificent 4 days of occupying the ground under the giant Christmas tree we accumulated enough tickets to be arrested for a separate 'civil' charge of having multiple tickets. We go to trial for this on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, at 9:30 AM in the VICTORIA LAW COURTS (850 Burdett Avenue).

Friday, December 5th, 2008- trial adjourned to Dec. 31st, 2008. Order for the Charter Challenge settled with Justice Ross telling the city that she did not add the words "at night" to the end of her ruling for a reason and that she is keeping it that way.

Wednesday, December 31st, 2008- City spent time trying to classify worthy homeless and unworthy homeless. I will not say what will happen as the judge reserved his ruling.

Wednesday, January 28th, 2009- Got to court this morning after just checking my email saying the ruling was coming down 10 minutes before... I get there as the judge is saying 'Tavis, Kristen and I are not guilty of having tents passed 7:00 AM. The judge, corrupt, gives his 'opinion' that the 7-7 thing could stand if it was an actual Bylaw and not a Bylaw Enforcement Policy. In effect, giving the city the ammo it thinks it needs to prolong this thing again.

Tuesday, February 10th, 2009- David and I were arrested yesterday morning for having multiple tickets. Everything went smoothly and for some reason we've secured a trial for this THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, at 9:30 AM.

Thursday, March 5th, 2009- David was told he must pay his fines by May 1st (4 tickets at \$85 each... which was interesting because the first ticket was a warning ticket... anyhoo...). I've been told to go to probation and complete 40 hours of community service by May 1st (interesting to note that my sentence was different from David's because of my 'vow of poverty').

Tuesday, March 24th, 2009- Appeal was registered and a date will be fixed for the hearing on APRIL 22, 2009 at 2:00 PM.

Saturday, March 28th, 2009- Went to the courthouse and submitted a request for a hearing to see if I can get transcripts for free. The hearing happens at 2:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH.

Wednesday, April 8th, 2009- Went to court today to see about getting the transcripts. Judge said no problem and that they'll be ordered come the first hearing of the appeal (2:00 PM on APRIL 22ND at THE VIC. LAW COURTS, BC SUPREME COURT), which , essentially, is the hearing that sets a date.

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2009- Hearing is set for May 27th at 2:00 PM. The City has gotten a month to determine whether or not the time set to file an appeal is within 30 days of the conviction or 30 days of the sentencing. Theoretically, they could have just turned around and asked the lady from the Supreme Court Registry, but I guess they couldn't have.

Wednesday, May 27th, 2009- The retrial is scheduled for the week of the 26th in October.

Wednesday and Thursday, June 10th and 11th, 2009: City's appeal of the Adams ruling. 3 Supreme Court Justices. They reserved their ruling. City suggests the question before them is only in regard to the night...

Wednesday, August 12th, 2009- arrested for breaching the 'no erecting tents during the daytime' thing- a night in jail and a Conditional Sentence Order and time served.

Monday, August 17th, 2009- arrested. Given a week sentence. 5 days inside.

Thursday, August 27th, 2009- arrested for breaching: A night in jail. Sign an 'undertaking' to return Sept. 18th with the idea being to talk to the Supreme Court and attempt to have this (these) file(s) moved to Supreme Court.

Wednesday, September 9th, 2009- hearing adjourned so I can put together an affidavit explaining why I don't use money.

Monday, September 21st, 2009- got arrested for breaching an undertaking to not set up a tent. 23 days inside. Fasting.

Tuesday, November 24th, 2009- arrested. Released Thursday, December 24th. 30 days fasting. (Made for a miraculous Christmas with friends...

Monday, Jan 4th, 10- Trial for 'other' collection-of-tickets charge adjourned until Mar 29th.

Monday, January 25th, 2010- The hearing to finalize getting the transcripts has been rescheduled from Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 2010, to WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2010, at 2:00 PM in the Vic. Law Courts.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010- The judge denied me the transcripts and has scheduled the appeal to be stayed, lest transcripts can come through other means, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 2010, by 3:45ish PM.

Monday, Feb 22nd, 2010- David just got the transcripts and I took the receipt to the Registry. The appeal remains scheduled for 10:00 AM, TUESDAY, APRIL 6TH, 2010.

Monday, March 29th, 2010- My other court things have had their 'fix a date' dates moved to April 14th at 10:00 AM.

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010- THE APPEAL FOR CONVICTIONS OF HAVING A TEMPORARY ABODE DURING THE DAY is scheduled for MONDAY, JULY 19TH at 10:00 AM at the VICTORIA LAW COURTS.

Wednesday, April 14th, 2010- The date for the other 'tents during the day' trial is set for SEPTEMBER 2ND at 2:00 PM. Of course, pending the results from the appeal which could make it moot.

Monday, July 19th, 2010- Because David wanted more time to gather evidence on the availability of daytime shelter the Justice (that's what you call judges when they are in the Supreme Court) today ordered that the appeal is adjourned until the week of SEPTEMBER 7TH (either Tuesday the 7th or Friday the 10th), 2010.

Friday, September 10th, 2010- appeal for convictions of collecting multiple no-tents-during-the-day Bylaw tickets. Judge reserved ruling.

Friday, Oct 22nd, 2010- arrested for breaching. 29.5 days at Wilky.

Friday, Nov 26th, 2010- arrested for breaching. Released on Dec 21st.

Wednesday, December 1st, 2010- appeal ruling comes out- David and I lost. We prepare our next appeal.



Photo from Jane Brett: Miriam May and Doreen Atkins, two of the long-standing peace-activists and members of the Wednesday Peace Vigil.

October 5th marked an anniversary of 10 years of meeting weekly at the Cenotaph at the Legislature (corner of Government & Belleville) to "Say NO to War".

The Wednesday Peace Vigil began as a project of the Victoria Peace Coalition. Who would have believed 10 years ago that Canada would still be in Afghanistan today?!?! Or that we would be in Libya now?

We still believe wars are not doing the planet any good and that we can best honour the dead with peace. The "word on the street" (what we've heard in the last decade) is that visitors from all over the world are opposed to any more wars and they fully understand that War is really only Business that wastes human capital and that distorts national budgets.

Peace-activists and members of the Wednesday Peace Vigil invite you to join them any Wednesday, noon until 1 pm.

Victoria Human Exchange Society announces ...

Esther's House, in Nanaimo, is now a reality, thanks initially to a generous donation from the Sisters of St Ann--Esther's Dream Foundation, and to many others who helped make the dream a reality.

VHES provides transitional type housing for people who want a drug and alcohol free environment in Greater Victoria, Salt Spring island and Nanaimo.

Read our newsletters at humanx.org



OPEN HOUSE at
787 Albert St
Saturday, Dec. 3rd,
2.00 – 5.00 pm.
Cell: 250-668-
6008

Mailing address for
donations: Nanaimo
Branch of VHES #38
- 3200 Island Hwy
OR P.O. Box 37082
NANAIMO, BC
V9T 6N4

VHES-Nanaimo
Branch P.O. Box
8534 VICTORIA BC
V8W 3S1

Open letter to Politicians of all stripes and their constituents.

Jail is an expensive and dehumanizing way of housing people.

The Harper government's get Tough on Crime project is a huge waste of money. If we were to use that money to create housing and prevent the need to be housed in jail we would all be better off.

It costs \$100,000.00 a year to keep someone in prison. Why not use the related treatment services in housing projects? There are many people in jail who have excellent building skills. They could help co-create their own housing.

Recreate the federal housing project instead of the prison project.

I assume that the "Harper" government is aware of the US disaster with their prison system so WHY would HE want to create another disaster here????

I assume they are aware of the falling crime rate so WHY continue on this fraudulent path? Building houses would also create jobs and heal communities.

HOUSING NOT PRISONS could be a project in memory of Jack Layton. Let's get the CAN back in Canada.

Joanna Wilkinson, Victoria

An Observation of Economics and Secrecy

by Bruce Malkson, currently in Washington

I think wealth is actually control or possession of anything other people want or need. It could be food, water, shelter, tobacco, or any sort of thing in different circumstances. I also think there is something like "economic slavery," where some people have very few choices about what they can buy or where they can go to get things they need. I think this is when some people control the distribution, (and the timing of the distribution) of wealth. I also believe that when some people can do this, the "economic slavery" can cause theft, prostitution, rape, murder, and even suicide by others attempting to acquire what they need or want, but finding such limited choices.

I think that wealth not acquired by chance, labor, inventing things, (or by the horrible means I mentioned above) can be acquired by secret agreements between individuals who each possess or control some wealth of their own, as well as by force (like simply taking things from others forcibly with weapons).

It seems to me that acquiring or maintaining wealth by making secret agreements requires keeping secrets, and censoring or silencing any others who might reveal those agreements or "secret deals." So, to control the distribution and the timing of that distribution, those who control and possess the wealth must keep secret any agreements they have between themselves if they want to create the "economic slavery" of others. They must be kept ignorant of any "back-room deals," in other words.

But, since secrets never remain unknown forever, once they are discovered by any others, those who have made "secret contracts" find themselves unable to keep their "secret" agreements, and must break promises they have made to one another. So, any "economic slavery" they may have caused (in order to acquire even more "wealth") fails to continue, because the distribution (and the timing of the distribution) of the wealth involved becomes known to any would-be "economic slaves."

Anyway, most people know that there are enough problems, even with honest and open distribution of wealth, simply because of our naturally human faults of greed, envy and so forth.



Books for Reading: The Streetwise Cycle

by Andrew Tate

Unlike my previous review of *Siddhartha* which dealt with themes of personal salvation, spiritual quests and being connected with and being inspired by the power of nature, this short book deals with the stark reality, alienation and loneliness of homelessness. It is entitled *The Streetwise Cycle* by Bronwyn Mauldin (2010, GuerrillaReads Books, Los Angeles, s.c., 51 ppgs.).

Bronwyn Mauldin is a writer and independent radio producer based in Los Angeles. She is also the creator of the online video literary magazine *GuerrillaReads.com*. For more information about Bronwyn, her website is BronwynMauldin.com

These are a collection of nine short stories, each 999 words (don't ask me why) introducing "Pops," an alcoholic homeless man navigating the streets of Los Angeles where he encounters blue-collar and middle-class people who may be just one job, one mortgage payment, or one earthquake away from financial catastrophe.

The first chapter introduces us to Pops (or Bill, his real name), who lost his wife to an earthquake, and his young son Isaiah. Due to his excess drinking and emotional instability, he is unable to care for his son who is eventually taken away by LA social services and placed in foster care. The next 8 chapters chronicle Pop's life on the street several years later where he is living in a vacant lot. We see him with a shopping cart finding food in dumpsters, sleeping in alleys in a drunken stupor, and dancing in the streets to imaginary tunes in his head. Later on we see him reluctantly reunited with his grown up son who tries to help him with food, cigarettes and money.

The last chapter "Transit" reunites Pops with Isaiah once again at a bus stop. Without giving away too much, I'll just say there is no happy ending here. I found the interactions between Pops and his grown up son quite touching and yet tragic.

This was a sad book to read; however it captured the reality, alienation, and loneliness of life on the streets ... in a glimpse. I have encountered many homeless people throughout my life in Vancouver and Victoria and I always try to be friendly and compassionate. They are people who are hurting inside due to financial hardships, or have a mental illness and cannot help the way they behave.

Currently this book is not available in any branches of the GVPL; however it is available in print from Amazon and as an e-book from Smashworks and in podcast from Podiobooks. Also *The Streetwise Cycle* is available in an image-and-word-cloud version and the book's website, StreetwiseCycle.com, includes a guide for book groups. You can even get a Google map of the stories.

Until next time!

Andrew earned a B.A. in English, and is available to proofread, edit, and/or type and print out your essays. Email him at mrpianoman@shaw.ca for more info.



A Nuclear Christmas

Casually watching the hungry kids starve on The News
He tried on a pair of his new Christmas shoes
He wasn't into the blues
He went out for a while
For a walk and a smile
Amidst the jingle of bells
He strolled free as a child
All snug in his shell
In holiday style
Passing newspaper stands he gazed up at a star
Among anonymous overcoats, and jostling cars
By the neon lit windows
Of cafés and bars
He strode on without care
Through the crisp evening air
With pride in his stride
His own personal hero
And as the sky blew apart
He stood as noble as Nero
On a highly respected corner
Alone, at ground zero



Stanley

Prove It Right

Some people complain of where the concerts' going to be
While others are pining, for a ticket to be free
Some people have access to the cures, they've got the means
Others toil away in trenches, bartered til they steam
Some people think it is wise to block the blowing breeze
Covering up their eyes, until distraction brings them ease
And in the forms of many, it comes with great appease
But please, oh, please
Listen deep...
I like you, but
I want to shake you
I want to wake you up
I want to break you
I want to break your cellar door down
Because there is no storm to hide from
There's just some empty hands to feed
And you've got more on your shelf, than you need
I don't hate anybody
I write this not to fight
Just this:
Love expects more from you
Prove me wrong, Prove It Right

Rose Guedes

strange pain inside (Joey, pt.II)

"...just a little taste, a soft nip
slow lethal divine thing cushion liquid
block the whole void back
blacken the steel, blunt the pang
pull the loneliness from the spine..
...why must i always explain?
i eagerly anticipate the rain
and the opportunity
to lash myself along to this, again..
it's medicine as i am a criminal
in only the worst ways
Gods given poison
cowards blood, just a taste
the fix is in the fine lie
the pulled cork, under
the bottle cap and brandishing brightly
in the fire
licking the bottom of the spoon..."

j. fisher



Standard Time The Standard Crime

I will not work for standard time
Until they pay a standard dime
For when I work for standard time
I start to lose my mind
I don't go crazy,
My mind gets hazy, lazy
I find I can't unwind
The joys in life I can no longer find
And time we can't rewind

Standard Time, the Standard Crime

I will not work for standard time
Until they pay a standard dime
For when I work for standard time
My mind can't find time to rhyme
And when I have the time to rhyme,
My mind just feels sublime.

So to Hell

with their standard time, the standard f*@king crime

©- FFP, Harrison Wilding

Site C Dam Update

by Don Startin

The best-laid plans of mice and men oft go awry
Robbie Burns



Last month I planned to have the folks at the Peace River Environment Association do the update. Sadly something went wrong. My apologies. The idea was for them to clue in readers on the fact that the federal and provincial governments have decided to have a joint environmental assessment on the proposed dam. Submissions on the way the assessment is to be run were to be submitted by Nov 7th.

I e-mailed our provincial assessment office requesting an extension until Feb 7th, 2012 due to the fact that as far as I know no notice of this assessment has appeared in any local or provincial newspapers, or been broadcast on the CBC.

Hopefully, by the time this reaches you I'll have written protesting Hydro's name for the project which is "clean energy project." The reservoir will produce significant quantities of methane from the silt on its bottom, and methane is twice as bad as CO2 as a greenhouse gas. Also, arsenic leaching from the walls of the reservoir will make any fish in it uneatable.

When all the submissions have been dealt with by a joint review panel the assessment will get under way. The actual review panel will consist of experts in the field who are not government officials. The chairperson will be agreed on by the two environment ministers, and will have two other members, one appointed federally and the other provincially.

It all seems fair and above board, but the underlying economic and political pressures to build the dam are enormous. We are afraid they will trump the best presented economic, environmental, and aesthetic reasons why it should not be built.

In these difficult times governments are desperate to provide jobs. Several mines are looking to start up in northern BC and are hoping to get power from Hydro's new northern power line which was subsidized by the Harper Conservatives. Also the shale frackers need power for their expansion in the area. I get that "loaded dice feeling"!

In our next edition I am hoping to shed some light on the power morass in B.C. as it affects Site C.

editor's note: A new documentary film examines the impact of increased energy production from Alberta and BC. 'Peace Out,' by Charles Wilkinson, won the NFB Most Popular Canadian Documentary Award at the 2011 Vancouver International Film Festival. Visit www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi3641351193 for more information.

photo: Dave Bell, published at wildernesscommittee.org.

